

Appl. No. 10/750,024
Amdt. Dated July 7, 2006
Reply to Office Action of May 24, 2006

REMARKS

Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 8, and 16 have been amended to include subject matter of claims 3 and 10, as originally filed, which are believed to be allowable. Claims 3 and 10 have been therefore canceled accordingly.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102

Claims 1-6, 8-13, 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by French et al. (US 4,924,356; hereinafter French).

In response to the rejection thereto, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 8 and 16 to include subject matter contained in claims 3 and 10, as originally filed, and hereby traverse this rejection. Applicants submit that allowability of independent claims 1, 8 and 16, as currently amended, relies on patentability of originally filed dependent claims 3 and 10, which are canceled in the current response in accordance with the amendment of claims 1, 8 and 16.

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Claim 3, as originally filed, recites:

The light guide plate of claim 1, wherein the color filter further comprises a light shielding film for shielding ultraviolet wavelength light beam.

Similarly, claim 10, as originally filed, recites:

The surface light source of claim 8, wherein the color filter further comprises a light shielding film for shielding ultraviolet wavelength light beams.

Thus, claim 1, as amended, recites in part:

a color filter disposed on and adjacent to the emitting surface, the **color filter comprising a color layer for a full color display and a light shielding film on the color layer**, the light shielding film configured for shielding ultraviolet wavelength light beams.
(Emphasis added.)

Similarly, claim 8, as amended, recites in part:

a color filter disposed on and adjacent to the emitting surface of the light guide plate, the **color filter comprising a color layer**

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for a full color display and a light shielding film on the color layer, the light shielding film configured for shielding ultraviolet wavelength light beams. (Emphasis added.)

Applicants submit that such a light guide plate as set forth in claim 1, and such a surface light source, as set forth in claim 8, each as amended, are neither taught, suggested, nor disclosed by French or any of the other cited references, taken alone or in combination, and thus should be allowable.

Addressing claim 3, the Examiner contends, “356 teaches the color filter further comprises ... shielding layer 13 which shields uv light” (Page 2 of the current Office Action). Applicants respectfully disagree.

French ‘356 teaches “[A] reflector 13 [is] included in the light box 11 and also has a highly and diffusely reflective surface ... the reflector 13 includes a plurality of slots, or apertures, which transmit light from the light box 11 to the viewing screen of the display device 10” (Column 2,

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lines 34-39). As such, Applicant realizes that the non-slotted portions of the reflector 13 could potentially reflect and thus shield the transmission of UV light. However, such is not the full test as to whether the reflector 13 satisfies the limitation of the UV shield of claim 1, as amended. The test, according to amended claim 1, is whether the color filter is comprised of both a color layer and a UV-light shielding film on the color layer.

Applicants further submit that the reflector 13, as taught by French '356, does not comprise a color filter, as required by amended claims 1 and 8. French '356 teaches that the "reflector 13 is formed by depositing a highly and diffusely reflective material onto the surface 18 between the slots 19 ... during the deposition process it is possible that the reflective material will also coat the slots 19 ... if this occurs, the reflective material can easily be removed from the slots 19 by abrasion or polishing methods" (Column 3, lines 50-56). French '356 further indicates, relative to Fig. 5, that "[d]ielectric film interference filters 26R, 26G and 26B are sequentially arranged in the slots 19" of the reflector 13. Yet, even with respect to Fig. 5, French '356 does not disclose or suggest

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having the reflective material 13 on the filters 26R, 26G, and/or 26B. Without an express teaching in French '356 to the contrary, one of ordinary skill in the art would be led to believe that placement of a reflective layer 13 on the filters 26R, 26G, and/or 26B would prevent any light from reaching such filters in the first place, thereby rendering them ineffective (MPEP §2143.01(V)).

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the subject matter as discussed above, as set forth in amended claims 1 and 8, is novel and unobvious over French '356 or any of the other cited references, taken alone or in combination, and thus should be allowable.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

Claims 7, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over French '356.

In response to the rejection of claims 7, 14 and 15, Applicants submit that claim 7 depends on allowable independent claim 1, claims 14 and 15 depend on allowable independent claim 8, and thus such claims

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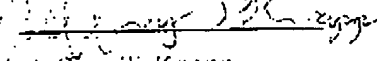
should also be allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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